

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2580

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

RUEH A/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 892

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MBABANE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY GABORONE BY POUCH

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PDEV, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: DECENTRALIZATION OF FUNCTIONS OF MINISTRY OF
INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION

1. DURING FAREWELL CALL, I WAS INFORMED BY DR. ANTONIO MARTINEZ VALADAS PRETOR, CHIEF JUSTICE OF MOZAMBIQUE SUPREME COURT, THAT HE IS DEPARTING FOR LISBON NEXT WEEK AT REQUEST OF ANTONIO DE ALMEIDA SANTOS, MINISTER OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION, TO WORK ON ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRUCTURING LEADING TO EVENTUAL "EXTINCTION" OF MINISTRY OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION. BASIC TASK WILL BE TO DECENTRALIZE MINISTRY'S FUNCTIONS BY SETTING UP APPROPRIATE STRUCTURES IN OVERSEAS PROVINCES TO TAKE THEM OVER. IN CASE OF JUDICIAL FUNCTION, GOAL WILL BE TO CHANGE OVERSEAS JUDICIAL SYSTEM SO THAT
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LAST LEVEL OF COURT APPEAL WILL BE IN OVERSEAS PROVINCE

ITSELF.

2. ALTHOUGH OF LIBERAL PERSUASION, PRETO SEEMED APPREHENSIVE ABOUT RAPIDITY AT WHICH EVENTS UNFOLDING IN MOZAMBIQUE TOWARD "INEVITABLE" INDEPENDENCE (HE ESTIMATED BETWEEN 1-2 YEARS). HE SAID MANY PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS EITHER LEAVING PERMANENTLY OR AT LEAST SENDING THEIR FAMILIES ABROAD UNTIL POLITICAL SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE CALMS DOWN. (PRETO HIMSELF IS SENDING FAMILY TO LISBON AND, AFTER BRIEF RETURN TO MOZAMBIQUE, PLANS TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF THERE PERMANENTLY). HE BELIEVES EVEN FRELIMO REALIZES NEED TO KEEP SKILLED PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS TO HELP IT RUN COUNTRY AND HOPES THAT IT WILL SOON ISSUE GUARANTEE OF SAFETY OF TECHNICIANS' LIVES AND PROPERTY. PRETO IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT PORTUGUESE LAWYERS AND JUDGES WILL DEPART MOZAMBIQUE AND LEAVE IT WITHOUT JUDICIAL SYSTEM, INASMUCH AS THERE ARE ONLY FEW MOZAMBIKAN LAWYERS. IT IS THEREFORE URGENT TO CREATE FACULTY OF LAW AT UNIVERSITY OF LOURENCO MARQUES TO HELP MOZAMBIQUE'S FUTURE LAWYERS.

3. COMMENT: INCREASING NUMBER OF PROMINENT PORTUGUESE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO WELCOME POLITICAL CHANGES BROUGHT ABOUT BY APRIL 25 COUP, ARE EXPRESSING CONCERN AT POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE (BOTH WHITE/BLACK AND BLACK/BLACK) DURING TRANSITION PERIOD. (DETAILED SEPTEL THIS SUBJECT FOLLOWS). WHILE MANY PORTUGUESE NORMALLY RETURN TO PORTUGAL TO SPEND VACATION DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR, GENERAL FEELING IS THAT MORE THAN USUAL DEPARTING--AS BORNE OUT BY FULL BOOKINGS ON PLANES AND SHIPS LEAVING MOZAMBIQUE OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS.
VAN OSS

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